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35

# TURRIS LONDINENSIS.

## CARMEN LATINUM

## IN THEATRO SHELDONIANO RECITATUM

DIE JUNII XVI MDCCCXLVII.

*ἐκμαρτύρησον προὐμόσας τό μ' εἰδέναι*
*λόγῳ παλαιὰς τῶνδ' ἁμαρτίας δόμων.*
Æsch. Agam., 1164.

OXONII
FRANCISCUS MACPHERSON
MDCCCXLVII.

29934. f. 5.

OXONII:
EXCUDEBAT E. SKRIMPTON.

# TURRIS LONDINENSIS.

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Latus ubi celsas Londini interluit arces
Thamesis, et tamquam densis florere videtur
Abietibus, moles cœli se tollit ad auras
Admiranda, ingens, tectisque elata propinquis
Despicit adversos turrito vertice fluctus.
Sedes clara olim, et felix, dum bella vigerent,
Perfugium; restat quoque adhuc memorabile nomen,
Sed fortuna fuit: nec jam nisi temporis acti
Fama domum servat, magnâque amplectitur umbrâ.
Scilicet has quondam se subducebat in ædes
Rex populi intentus curis, cinctusque vocatis
Principibus, consulta palam dabat abdita mentis;
Aut etiam occulti metuens incendia belli
Suspectasve virûm fraudes, loca tuta petebat
Præmonitus, longèque minas vitabat inanes.
Sæpius et si qui patriæ funesta secuti
Arma (nefas), ausive inimicâ invadere dextrâ
Imperium, hîc miseri lentum exspectare solebant
Carnificis gladium, vel morte perosius ipsâ
Ducebant solis clausi penetralibus ævum,

Quò melius staret demùm res Anglica, quòque
Lætius augurium populo per sæcla maneret.
  At vos auspiciis quorum gens illa perennem
Ducta per ætatem, transmissæ lampadis instar,
Crevit, et usque novos motu surrexit in ignes,
Indulgete, precor, studio si captus inani
Annales adeam vestros, memorandaque facta
Persequar, et paullùm fugientibus immorer annis.
  Nempe ubi jam Cæsar tandem ad Tartessia regna
Victor ab Eoo, extremum duxisset in orbem
Romanas aquilas, Gallisque immane dedisset
Exitium, quale incensæ modo mœnibus urbis
Ipse superveniens (famæ si credere dignum est)
Vix trepidis potuit turmis inferre Camillus,
Mox etiam albentes scopulos, latosque Britannûm
Adspiciens inhiavit agros; tum navibus æquor
Imbuit ignotum, dubiâque exponit arenâ
Ritè viros, præcepsque inopino obvertitur hosti.
Post, ut frangendos demùm contriverat orsus
Vana reluctantûm, Romanisque acer habenis
Subdiderat gentem evictam, sibi traditur altum
Præsidio firmâsse locum, quà Thamesis undâ
Dividit arva, suo properans se mergere ponto.
Nondum etenim ingenti nôrant assurgere luxu
Urbanæ sedes, sed vix casa parva patentes
Hîc atque hîc variabat agros, dum sparsa per herbas
Reptabant pecora, aut hominum sine lege catervæ,
Pabula quærentes, silvestria tesqua premebant,

Incertæ quò ferre pedes, ubi sistere possent.
Quid memorem ut Britonûm cedens Romanus ab oris
Avertat notos fasces, et regna relinquat
Diripienda feris prædonibus? ut novus hospes,
Queis olim afflictis præsens succurrerit, ultro
Inferat arma viris, partemque reposcat honorum?
Quidve canam rabiem Cimbrorum, et bella quietis
Commissa Angligenis, donec violentior hostis
Proterat amborum pugnâ conamina, et ense
Per populos victore ferat nova jura subactos?
Urbana interea creverunt mœnia, jamque
Julia sublimes evadere turris in auras
Incipit, et magno sese circumdare sulco.
Haud[a] impunè quidem: bis motu terra dehiscens
Constructa evertit subito munimina, et altas
Exæquavit humo, tactas ceu fulmine, portas:
Bis sedem reparat tamen indefessa labantem
Ars hominum, murosque sinit, velut ante, minari.
At multi ambiguo voces sermone serebant
In vulgum: queritur populus, sibi dura parari
Vincula, et in cæco ducendam carcere vitam,
Idcircòque peti nummos et jussa tributa
Civibus imponi, quò præcipitantius ipsi
Contrectent servile jugum, frangendaque reddant

[a] Henry III. caused the Tower to be fortified; but the works were twice destroyed (according to some accounts) by an earthquake. They were however rebuilt, to the great terror of the people, who believed that they were intended against their liberties.

Robora victori, libeat si forte, tyranno.
Jamque fera augescunt odia, et gravis inde simultas
Invadit proceres: idem simul omnibus ardor
Bella inferre manu: furit en! Mavortius ignis
Non semel: hæc demùm fugientem limina tecto
Accipiunt regem[b], qui mox, cingentibus armis
Obnixus frustrà, posito discedere fastu
Cogitur, invisæque locum committere turbæ.
Processêre dies: alius jam sceptra capessit
Rector[c], et ardentes odiis civilibus ultro
Avertit sensus, suaque in vexilla cohortes
Advocat, externosque jubet sperare triumphos.
Nec cœptis fit vana fides: tu[d], Scotica tellus,
Tuque etiam, magnorum altrix generosa virorum,
Gallia, vos bello superatos cernere reges
Sustinuistis enim: vos et memorare potestis
Quali in victrices pompâ deductus uterque
Angligenûm sedes, hanc deinde subiverit arcem
Captivus, nôritque alienâ vivere mensâ.
O felix nimiùm tempus, cùm nescia cives
Continuisse suos, infensis mœnibus hostes
Claudebat solos turris, tutumve ferebat

[b] During the war with the barons, Henry III. took refuge in the Tower, which he was compelled to evacuate. Edward II. also occupied it at one period of his reign.

[c] Edward III.

[d] David of Scotland and John of France were taken prisoners, the one by Queen Philippa, the other by Edward III., and confined in the Tower.

Perfugium, ducibus pariter populoque colenda!
Mansissetque utinam! sed rursum civicus horror
Conflagrat: juvenis[e] regnum post bella quietum
Occupat, incertâque manu molitur habenas.
Ecce recrudescens pugnæ communis Erinnys
Obsessam aggreditur turrem, atque illapsa trucidat
Ense viros, regemque faces intentat in ipsum.
Quid licet externi melior vis Martis inanem
Gallorum rursus fastum prostrârit, et ædes
Captivis[f] iterum magnis compleverit? idem
Mox furor accendit popularia corda, nec usquam
Afflictam toties patitur requiescere gentem.
Quas Furias, arx magna, vides! quæ funera muros
Infectura tuos! jam qui modo regna tenebat
Te tenet (indignum) solio spoliatus, et ævum
Captivum sine honore trahit: mox hoc quoque sævi
Invidêre hostes: en! dum sopor occupat altus
Omnia[g], grassatur violens homicida, piamque
In cœlum mittit, transfosso pectore, vitam.
Nec tamen hæc permissa diu sine vindice cædes.

[e] Richard II., at the beginning of whose reign the court was besieged in the Tower by the insurgents under Wat Tyler: several bishops and noblemen were killed, and the royal family treated with great indignity.

[f] The French nobles, taken prisoners at the battle of Agincourt, were committed to the Tower.

[g] The story of the murder of Henry VI. by Richard duke of Gloucester, amid the uncertainty of historians, may be rested on the authority of Shakspeare.

Jamdudum stirpem invisam, dominantiaque arma
Pœna premit: sed mors ipsi immatura tyranno
Parcit, et insontes natos in fata requirit.
Tu, Turris, scelus adspêxti: tu conscia fraudem
Testata es patruam, cùm jam tua mœnia præses[h]
Servanda accepit noctem non amplius unam
Torvus, et immissæ patuerunt limina cladi.
Tum passim strepituque pedum et clamore sinistro
Scalarum resonare gradus: jamque ostia lecti
Continuò invadunt homines pulsata, ruuntque
Cominus in pueros. Olli captare quietem
Securam, flores veluti qui dulcibus auris
Nutriti, tandem æstivo se credere cœlo
Et roseos audent gemmis educere fœtus.
Hæc inter, facilis precibus mansuescere nullis,
Vis irrumpit atrox, tristique inimicior Euro
Pressa animæ sævâ claudit spiracula dextrâ.
Excipit hinc cædes cædem; et quæ Dira per altas
Debacchata domos, regali sanguine pasci
Consuêrat, similes posthâc sibi flagitat haustus.
Nec frustrà: viden' ut populi concursus hiantis
Confluit ad turrem, clivo quà elata supino
Erigitur tellus? hîc se feralia latè
In cœlum tabulata ferunt, juxtàque satelles
Lene quatit versam, exspectans, hîc inde securem.

[h] Tyrrel, under whose auspices the murder of the princes is said to have been perpetrated.

Quæ tamen his tantis devota est victima sacris?
Tune adeo, tune, Anna[i], cades, quem maximus olim
Uxorem optavit princeps, cæcoque furore
Vix concessa suis petiit connubia votis?
Hancne igitur, toties cupidas quam regius ulnas
Circumjecit amans, cervicem demetet ensis?
Sic, sic fata jubent: truncum sine vertice corpus
Volveris, et prædâ vindex lætatus opimâ
Tollit ovans oculos, alia et libamina poscit.
Ergo alia atque alia inviso data victima Diti
Occumbit: jam quæ[k] nuper regina, coronâ
Ornata hesternâ, proceres acceperat aulâ
Mane salutantes, agitur positura sub ictu
Mortali insontem, non ullo crimine, vitam.
Ah Virgo[l] infelix! nihil illâ profuit horâ
Socraticis chartis resonum clamore sequaci
Posthabuisse nemus, purgatâque aure loquentem
Exaudîsse senem, cùm jam confinia tangens
Sæclorum, vicibus[m] mortem vitamque doceret
Usque trahi alternis, et in orbem cuncta redire.
Nunc, nunc has ipsas tibi sors invisere sedes,
Quas velut in somnis quondam sibi finxerat ille
Præscius, et longè felices hauserat oras.
Spes etenim stat certa tibi; scis quale paretur
Hospitium fugienti animæ; talemque receptum

[i] Anne Boleyn. [k] Lady Jane Grey.
[l] The same expression is used of Pasiphae, by Virg. Ecl. vi.
[m] Plato. Phædo, c. 15.

Exspectans, læto ferrum irrevocabile vultu
Accipis, et mutas promissum carcere cœlum.
Nec verò solas nôrunt hæc mœnia culpas
Conscia, nec fando tantùm didicêre querelas
Lugentûm, et pœnâ expressos ultrice dolores.
Tu[n] testis, quem spes populi frustrata rapacis
Et regis vivax odium livorque malignus
Jussit obire diem: tu clausus turre tulisti
Bis senos traxisse annos, ævique vigorem,
Aut bello, aut studiis dudum civilibus aptum,
Dum passim arderent alii terrâque marique
Perdere, avi similis, cupidi quæ præda magistri
Non sibi captivæ fundit modulamina vocis.
Ergo infinitos consuêsti fallere soles
Mansuro incumbens operi, mundique tenorem
Antiquo rerum repetitum e fonte tabellâ
Pingere votivâ, qualem divina voluntas
Terrarum in toto semper se ostenderit orbe.
Quis numeret reliquos, hæc quotquot ceperit ædes
Captivos, sortemque virorum et crimina dicat?
Quippe hic[o] injustâ veniens in vincula culpâ
Discessit, nigrâ consumtus tabe veneni,
Infelix: illum[p] ardentis gravis ira senatûs
Obruit, et regem jussit caruisse ministro:

[n] Sir Walter Raleigh, who wrote his History of the World during his confinement in the Tower.

[o] Sir Thomas Overbury.

[p] Strafford.

Bellum alii[q] intulerant patriæ, pulsosque parârant
Antiquis rursus dominos imponere regnis;
Pro quo damnati scelere in caligine tristi
Et tenebris jacuêre diu, dum ritè vocaret
Summa dies, animamque ægrosque resolveret artus.
Insuper et multi, quos fama obscura recondit,
Insontes sontesque, ignota inhonoraque turba,
Hic solum traxêre ævum: sed et hos quoque luctus
Non minor urgebat: simili[r] penetrabile ferrum
Dente animam intravit, quoties concordis imago
Prolis, et uxorum serâ sub nocte dolentûm,
Et sociæ in mentem remearent gaudia vitæ.
Nunc etiam in duro camerarum pariete restant
Nomina inusta virûm: vestigiaque ipsa videntur
Appellare Deum, mœstasque expromere voces.
Hæc fuerant: sed nunc sævos Bellona tumultus
Leniit, et nostras fugiens avertitur oras:
Classica rauca silent: et jam per compita latè
Nil nisi mercantûm voces, strepitusque rotarum
Huc illuc resono properantûm tramite, lucri
Aut lusûs studio, densataque murmura vulgi
Audire est. Aliis moveantur bella sub astris:
Omnis in arma Oriens se concitet: India pacem
Exuat, Europæque neget parere magistræ:
Nulla tamen nobis metuenda pericula Martis,

[q] The rebels in 1715 and 1745.
[r] "The iron entered into his soul."

Usque adeo tutis, patriæ dum litora cingit
Æstus, et immunes reserant commercia portus.
Jamque puer, longæva patrûm monumenta revolvens,
Vix credit vixisse genus, queis unica cura
Bella sequi, pudor unus erat non vincere bello.
Tu tamen, umbra velut campis elapsa silentûm
In medio deprensa die, tu denique restas,
Turris, et ætatis revocas mirâcla peractæ,
Ante oculos testata ipsos atque ora minorum.
Jamque vale: non nunc priscis incumbere fastis
Usque juvat, sæcli immemores præsentis, et ultro,
Spectantes veluti, cupido dum lumine frustrà
Præteritas species captamus, omittere pompam
Instantem: satis est, semel intendisse viriles
Antiquis studiis animos, semel acta parentum
Magnorum rediviva tuo sub vertice quondam
Vidisse, et vacuam tecum lusisse per horam!

JOANNES CONINGTON,

COLL. UNIV. SOC.

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